

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:TRAVELING PRESS REPORT - NEWSPAPERS, FEBRUARY 13,
MORNING

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS - NO.

SUMMARY: NYTIMES AND NYDAILY NEWS CARRY FRONT PAGE UPI
2-COLUMN PIX HAK AND SADAT. WASHPOST CARRIES FRONT
PAGE AP 4-COLUMN PIX HAK, SADAT & SISCO.

1. WASHPOST - BERGER, PAGE ONE - LEAD: EGYPT PONDERES
PLEDGE; SUB-LEAD: U.S. HOPEFUL OVER CAIRO WILLINGNESS. BEGIN
TEXT EXCERPTS: THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THE
POSSIBILITY OF SIGNING AN AGREEMENT NOT TO START HOSTILITIES
AGAINST ISRAEL.

THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE LINKED TO PROGRESS TOWARD FURTHER
ISRAELI TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWALS, INFORMED EGYPTIAN
SOURCES SAID TODAY.

SUCH AN AGREEMENT - WHICH THESE SOURCES SAID WOULD BE CARE-
FULLY CIRCUMSCRIBED - COULD PROVIDE THE KEY TO A SECOND-
STAGE ISRAELI PULLBACK IN THE SINAI PENINSULA.

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RABIN HAS SAID THAT IF SADAT WOULD PUT IN WRITING WHAT HE

HAS SAID PUBLICLY - THAT NEITHER EGYPT NOR SYRIA WOULD START ANOTHER WAR - ISRAEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO RELINQUISH THE STRATEGIC SINAI PASSES AND THE OIL FIELDS AT ABU RUDEIS. SADAT HAS SAID THERE COULD BE NO AGREEMENT WITHOUT WITHDRAWALS FROM THESE AREAS...

EGYPTIAN READINESS TO CONSIDER AN AGREEMENT NOT TO START HOSTILITIES, WHICH WOULD FALL SHORT OF ISRAEL'S DEMAND FOR AN END TO THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY, WOULD EXPLAIN THE OPTIMISM OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

FOLLOWING MORE THAN TWO HOURS OF PRIVATE TALKS WITH SADAT TODAY, HAK SAID HE BELIEVED THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS ARE "RECONCILABLE" ...

ANY AGREEMENT NOT TO START HOSTILITIES WOULD HAVE ALL SORTS OF QUALIFICATIONS, EGYPTIAN SOURCES SAID. FOR EXAMPLE, IT WOULD NOT HOLD IF ISRAEL INITIATED HOSTILITIES AGAINST SYRIA.

GIVEN THE DIFFICULTY IN DETERMINING WHICH SIDE INITIATES THE AGGRESSION, THERE WOULD BE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. NOR WOULD ANY SOURCES MAKE CLEAR SUCH CRUCIAL DETAILS AS WHETHER SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED DIRECTLY WITH ISRAEL OR THROUGH A THIRD PARTY, PRESUMABLY THE UNITED STATES.

IN ISRAELI EYES, AN INDIRECT SIGNING WOULD DIMINISH ITS VALUE BECAUSE ISRAEL IS SEEKING TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT

IT IS BECOMING ACCEPTED BY THE ARAB WORLD.

BUT SADAT HAS DIFFICULTIES WITH OTHER ARABS AND CANNOT APPEAR TO BE MAKING A SEPARATE DEAL WITH ISRAEL THAT WOULD FREEZE THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS ON OTHER FRONTS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE REPORTERS ABOARD KISSINGER'S PLANE UNCLASSIFIED

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EN ROUTE TO CAIRO THIS MORNING WERE TOLD THAT SADAT UNDERSTANDS THAT ISRAEL MUST RECEIVE SOMETHING TANGIBLE IN RETURN FOR ANY SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWALS IN THE SINAI.

THUS, DESPITE EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT CAIRO WILL MAKE NO POLITICAL CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR WHAT ARE CHARACTERIZED HERE AS PURELY MILITARY MOVES BY ISRAEL, IT IS CLEAR THAT HAK KNEW OF SADAT'S INTENTIONS

IN ADVANCE OF THEIR MEETING TODAY ...

HAK IS DESCRIBED HAVING TOLD ISRAEL THAT THERE PROBABLY

MUST BE TWO LEVELS OF COMMITMENT FROM EGYPT. ONE WOULD BE IN WRITING, THE OTHER, WHICH WERE SAID TO BE SOME OF THE GREATEST BENEFITS, WOULD BE THE LEAST POSSIBLE TO WRITE DOWN.

GIVEN THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN ISRAEL, WHERE THERE IS STRONG OPPOSITION AND WHERE PM RABIN'S PARLIAMENTARY MARGIN IS VERY NARROW, SUCH UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDINGS COULD CAUSE GREAT POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES.

REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT IF HAK CANNOT ACHIEVE AN AMBITIOUS ISRAELI PULLBACK WITH APPROPRIATE RETURNS FROM EGYPT, HE WILL SEEK A MORE MODEST ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WITH A CORRESPONDINGLY SMALLER RETURN FROM EGYPT IN THE WAY OF ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL'S PLACE IN THE REGION. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAY A LESSER WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

HAK IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING DEFECTED AN EVOLUTION IN ISRAELI THINKING. WHEREAS BEFORE THEY SPOKE ONLY OF A WITHDRAWAL OF 20 TO 30 MILES, HOLDING BOTH TO THE SINAI PASSES AND THE OIL WELLS, OFFICIALS IN JERUSALEM ARE NOW AT LEAST PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE POINTS OF A BARGAIN, EVEN THOUGH THE PRICE FOR THEM MAY NOT BE ATTAINABLE...

HAK DID WHAT HE COULD TO QUIET ISRAELI NERVOUSNESS OVER AMERICAN INTENTIONS, ASSURING GUESTS AT THE DINNER IN JERUSALEM THAT THE UNITED STATES "WILL NOT KNOWINGLY SACRIFICE ISRAEL TO GREAT-POWER POLITICS." THIS WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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INTENDED TO PROVIDE REASSURANCE FOLLOWING RECENT REMARKS BY PRESIDENT FORD IN A TIME MAGAZINE INTERVIEW THAT "IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE UNITED STATES MUST JUDGE ITS OWN NATIONAL INTEREST ABOVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS.

MR. FORD'S LATEST PRESS CONFERENCE IN TOPEKA, KANSAS, YESTERDAY AGAIN RAISED NEW CONCERNS, EVEN AS HAK WAS TRYING TO CALM THEM. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF "A VERY SERIOUS PROSPECT" OF ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO. ISRAELI OFFICIALS TENDED TO SEE THIS AS RENEWED PRESSURE TO MOVE TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. END WASHPOST EXCERPTS.

2. NYTIMES - GWERTZMAN, PAGE ONE - LEAD: HAK SAYS TALK WITH SADAT YIELDS PROGRESS, SUB-LEAD: SEES GAIN IN

CLARIFICATION OF ISSUES - EGYPTIAN REPORTS THAT HE IS
AFTER A REVIEW OF THE ME SITUATION WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT, SAID TODAY THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN CLARIFY-

ING ISSUES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT AND IN POINTING OUT
THE DIRECTION "IN WHICH A SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND" ...

OVER-ALL COMMENTS MADE BY HAK AND SADAT TO REPORTERS OUT-
SIDE SADAT'S HOME ALONG THE NILE WERE OPTIMISTIC, IN LINE
WITH HAK'S EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT HE BELIEVED HE COULD
WORK OUT A FURTHER ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ACCORD IN SINAI WHEN
HE RETURNED TO THE ME NEXT MONTH.

SADAT IS 'SATISFIED' - SADAT ALLOWED HAK TO DO MOST OF
THE TALKING, BUT SAID HE WAS "SATISFIED" AND THAT "WE HAD
VERY GOOD TALKS."

REPORTERS HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER THE EXPRESSIONS
OF OPTIMISM ARE BASED ON DEVELOPMENTS OR ARE A REFLECTION
OF HAK'S EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE BOTH SIDES TO TAKE
CONCILLIATORY APPROACHES ...

DURING THE FLIGHT TO CAIRO THIS MORNING, REPORTERS
WERE TOLD THAT THE TALKS IN ISRAEL HAD GONE INTO THE
POSSIBLE DETAILS OF AN AGREEMENT, SUCH AS WHAT
TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS ISRAEL WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE
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IN RETURN FOR EGYPTIAN STEPS TOWARD PEACE.

HAK WAS SAID TO HAVE COME AWAY FROM HIS TALKS IN JERU-

SALEM WITH THE VIEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO MAKE AN
AGREEMENT WITH THE EGYPTIANS BUT WAS CONFRONTED BY A
DILEMMA. THE CONCESSIONS THAT ISRAEL WANTS FROM EGYPT
MAY BEST BE OBTAINED IN AN INFORMAL OR SECRET WAY BUT
ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION DEMANDS THAT THEY BE INCLUDED IN
A WRITTEN DOCUMENT. END NYTIMES EXCERPTS.

3. NYDAILY NEWS - PAGE 2 - CARTER -LEAD: HAK AND SADAT
OPTIMISTIC FOLLOWING LONG DAY OF TALKS. BEGIN TEXT
EXCERPTS: HAK SAID TONIGHT, AFTER A LONG DAY OF TALKS
WITH SADAT, THAT "I THINK WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN
CLARYING THE ISSUES AND INDICATING THE DIRECTION" FOR
A SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

"I AM VERY SATISFIED," SADAT SAID. "WE HAD VERY FRUITFUL
TALKS. I AM ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC WHEN I RECEIVE MY FRIEND
HENRY."

FLYING HERE FROM ISRAEL, A SENIOR OFFICIAL ABOARD HAK'S
PLANE HAD SAID THAT ISRAEL MUST RECEIVE IN WRITING SOME-

THING SPECIFIC THAT THE EGYPTIANS WOULD DO IN RETURN
FOR ISRAEL'S RELINQUISHING MORE TERRITORY IN THE SINAI
PENINSULA.

THE U.S. OFFICIAL SAID THAT SADAT UNDERSTOOD THIS.

THUS, THE REMARKS BY SADAT AND HAK APPEARED TO
INDICATE THAT A DEAL MIGHT BE IN THE MAKING DESPITE
RECENT PUBLIC ASSERTIONS TO THE CONTRARY IN BOTH EGYPT AND
ISRAEL...

HAK SOUNDED MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR AN
EARLY AGREEMENT THAN WHEN HE LEFT ISRAEL A FEW HOURS
EARLIER ...

THE SECRETARY DODGED A QUESTION ABOUT HOW THE NEXT STEP IN
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MIDEAST PEACEMAKING MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT, BUT SAID:
"THE BASIC PROBLEM IS TO BRING PEACE TO THE ENTIRE AREA,
AND THAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM. IN REACHING THAT,
THERE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE INDIVIDUAL STEPS, AND I
PERSONALLY HAVE SOME IDEAS WHAT THESE STEPS MIGHT BE
IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVER-ALL PEACE."

SOME ONLOOKERS THOUGHT THAT SADAT, STANDING AT HAK'S
SIDE, LOOKED SUBDUED OR EVEN GLUM. BUT, ALTHOUGH
SADAT'S EXPRESSION WAS SOBER, HIS WORDS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC
...

THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD DEFINITELY RETURN TO THE
MIDDLE EAST NEXT MONTH FOR AN INTENSIVE ROUND OF
NEGOTIATIONS TO TRY TO WRAP UP ANOTHER STEP IN HIS
STEP-BY-STEP PEACEMAKING. END NYDAILY NEWS EXCERPTS.

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